

What is claimed is:

1. A method for packet forwarding over an N x STS-1 SONET network from a source port to a destination port client data occupying a group of one or more STS-1s at said source port, said method comprising establishing a data flow path defined by said STS-1s from said source port to said destination port defined by said STS-1s.

2. A method according to claim 1 comprising notifying each of said ports of said data flow path, providing to said source port an address identifying said destination port and providing to said destination port an address identifying said source port.

3. Apparatus for packet forwarding over an N x STS-1 SONET network from a source port to a destination port client data occupying a group of one or more STS-1s at said source port, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a path identifier for identifying a data flow path comprising said STS-1s and extending from said source port to said destination port and notifying each of said ports of said data flow path: and,

(b) an address identifier for identifying and providing to said source port an address identifying said destination port and for identifying and providing to said destination port an address identifying said source port.